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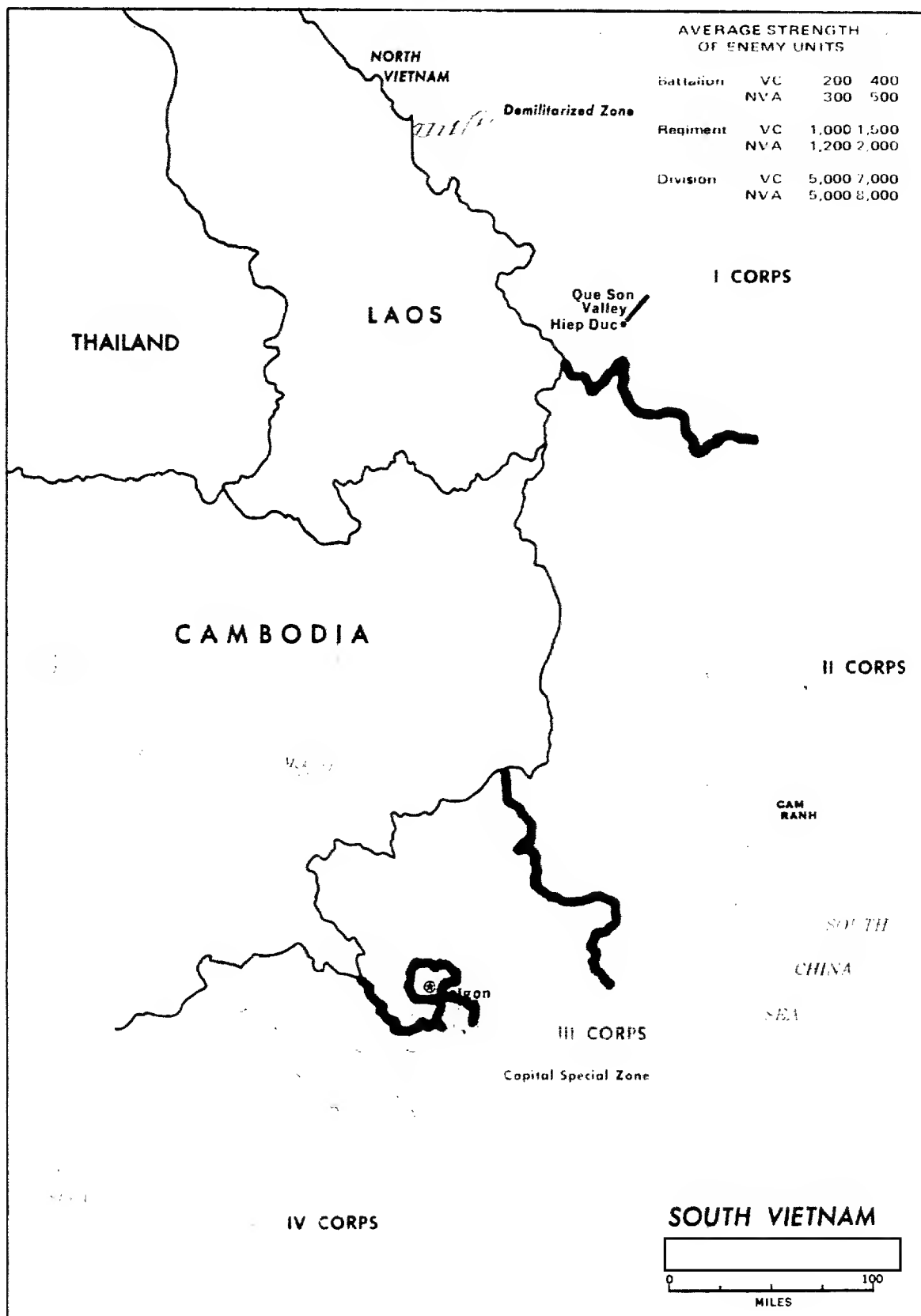
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[Vietnam: Sharp ground fighting continued in central I Corps on 26 August, but military activity elsewhere was low.

The North Vietnamese 2nd Division has lost nearly 700 troops killed since action erupted more than a week ago in the Que Son valley. US forces attempting to clear the valley have also sustained fairly heavy casualties, roughly 50 killed and 300 wounded.

The reason for the enemy's tenacity in defending its positions in and around the valley is not clear. The Communists may, however, be attempting to draw large numbers of allied troops away from pacification and security duties in the heavily populated coastal lowlands. There is also some evidence that the 2nd Division is maneuvering for an attack against the government's "showcase" refugee resettlement center at Hiep Duc, a district town near the Que Son valley. [REDACTED]

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South Korea: Student demonstrators are the only significant opposition remaining to President Pak's third-term amendment.

The dissident movement within the ruling party has collapsed. Even opposition legislators now agree that Pak probably will succeed in passing the amendment in the National Assembly and confirming it in a subsequent national referendum.

The government has strengthened its riot-control forces in anticipation of renewed student agitation this fall. The police frustrated student demonstrators at Korea University earlier this week by confining them to their campus. Other campuses in Seoul have been quiet thus far. The students are taking examinations that were postponed because of the disorders last spring and are registering for the fall semester.

The violent demonstrations expected in coming weeks could result in student deaths or the involvement of other elements of Korean society. Public opinion might then be aroused to a point where the passage of the amendment would be jeopardized.

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Argentina: The government's last-minute ban on the general strike planned for today shows a growing concern about the prospect of a new outbreak of worker-student violence.

Yesterday the government declared the proposed strike illegal, and warned that any public employees taking part in it would be subject to dismissal. Top military commanders prepared plans to prevent a possible repetition of the violence that accompanied the general strike on 30 May.

Previously, the government had said it would permit the unions to hold the strike, but would hold them responsible for any violence that occurred. The decision of student groups to support the strike may have been an important factor in convincing military leaders that it had to be prevented. Despite the ban, a number of unions have decided to go ahead with the strike. Such a move would almost certainly result in a further government crackdown on labor under the state of siege imposed on 30 June.

The prohibition of the strike at the last moment suggests that the military leaders who want a tougher line on internal security are playing a bigger role in decision making.

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USSR-Czechoslovakia: Moscow has responded to the Czechoslovak leadership's show of force and repressive controls last week with the strongest Soviet public endorsement yet. An article in Pravda yesterday referred approvingly to the measures taken by the party and state. It asserted for the first time that the Czechoslovak party is in complete command of the situation. Pravda also alleged, however, that anti-Soviet elements had "morally put themselves in the dock as criminals." This implies that Moscow now expects Husak to suppress the last vestiges of liberal and anti-Soviet opposition. [REDACTED]

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